

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

C1
1. (Twice Amended) An organic-inorganic composite graded material which is an organic-inorganic composite material comprising a composite in which an organic polymer compound and a metallic compound are chemically bonded to each other, and having a component-graded structure in which the content of the metallic compound in the material continuously changes in the depth direction from the surface of the material.

Sub Δ 1
2. (Twice Amended) The organic-inorganic composite graded material of claim 1, wherein the organic-inorganic composite material consists of a composite in which the organic polymer compound and the metallic compound are chemically bonded to each other.

C2
6. (Twice Amended) The organic-inorganic composite graded material of claim 1, wherein the composite in which the organic polymer compound and the metallic compound are chemically bonded to each other is a hydrolysis product from a mixture of the organic polymer compound having a molecule containing a metal-containing group capable of bonding to a metal oxide by hydrolysis with a metal compound capable of forming a metal oxide by hydrolysis.

7. (Twice Amended) The organic-inorganic composite graded material of claim 1, wherein the composite in which the organic polymer compound and the metallic

C12
C13
C14
compound are chemically bonded to each other is a hydrolysis product from a mixture of the organic polymer compound having a molecule containing a metal-containing group capable of bonding to a metal nitride polymer by hydrolysis with a metal nitride polymer.

24. (Amended) The coating agent of claim 21, wherein the coating layer containing at least an inorganic or metallic material is a coating layer containing an inorganic or metallic material.

36. (Amended) The article of claim 33, wherein the coating layer containing at least an inorganic or metallic material is a coating layer containing an inorganic or metallic material.